लोगों की रोजी-रोटी लगी हुई है, उनकी आगे की जिंदगी को भी संवारते रहना है। ये दो बहुत कठिन सवाल हैं और इन कठिन सवालों के लिए सावधानीपूर्वक हमने एक पालिसी बनाई है। वह पालिसी बनाकर के ही, रिटायरमैंट की उम्र को घटाकर 60 से 58 किया है। यदि कोई इससे पहले किसी दूसरे धंधे में या किसी व्यापार में जाना चाहता है तो हमने कोशिश की है कि वह पांच साल पहले भी जा सकता है। इसी तरह से हमने कहा है कि यदि कोई सप्ताह में तीन दिन आ करके काम करे तो वह कर सकता है। इसी तरह के हमने कोई कदम उठाये हैं। जो लोग इसमें काम कर रहे हैं, उनकी आगे की जो जिंदगी है, उनके बाल-बच्चे हैं, उनका भविष्य अंधकारमय न हो। जो इतनी बड़ी संख्या है एक जहाज पर 700 लोग हैं इसको भी सिलसिलेवार धीरे-धीरे कम करने का काम है। यह कदम हम बहुत सावधानी से उठा रहे हैं। सभापति जी, मैं आपको और आपके माध्यम से इस सदन को यकीन दिलाता हूं, मुतमईन करता हूं कि आने वाले साल से हम लाभ नहीं कमा पाये तो लाभ-हानि को जीरो जरूर कर देंगे। इसमें हम लगातार लगे हुए हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Master plan for development of tourism in Andhra Pradesh

*501. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA :

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to share the cost of preparation of tourism master plan for Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vishakhapatnam and Nagarjuna Sagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon to encourage tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Andhra Pradesh Government has engaged the services of M/s. EDAW, U.K. and its agency M/s. Tourism Features, New Delhi for preparing macro and micro plans of Tirupati and Hyderabad. Similarly, the services of M/s. KPMG Ltd. was utilised for preparing project report on micro and macro plans

on coastal tourism. They have also obtained the services of World Tourism Organisation for preparing perspective tourism plan for Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh *vide* his letter dated 17.11.1998 had requested the Ministry of Tourism to release 50 per cent of the consultancy expenses, i.e. Rs. 1,86,89,677.00. Since the total budget available for the preparation of master plans/feasibility studies was less than Rs. 1.00 crore for the entire country, Ministry of Tourism could not provide assistance as requested for.

(c) The development of toruism in the country is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/U.T. Administration. The Central Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central financial assistance to them for specific proposals prioritised in consultation with them every year. During the year 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 9689.55 lakhs was sanctioned for State Governments/Union Territory Administrations out of which a sum of Rs. 222.22 lakhs was sanctioned to the State of Andhra Pradesh for the implementation of various tourism development projects.

Number of Custom House clearing agents

*506. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Custom House clearing agents in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai, city-wise;

(b) the details of the priorities/facilities made available to them and the terms and conditions for the appointment of these agents;

(c) whether it is a fact that as much as 3000 Bills of Entry (B/E) are pending for disposal in Mumbai alone;

(d) if so, the details of the pending cases in other cities; and

(e) the reasons for the delay and the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) :

(a) The datails of the Custom House Agents, city-wise are as under :

	No. of Custom House Agents
Mumbai	1141
Delhi	604
Calcutta	191
Chennai	556